

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

When things like this happened in Russia, it was called propaganda. When it happens here, it's hidden by big money and the fact that the average American really doesn't understand how few hands our media is in today. They look like different stations, they purport to be different stations, but in fact they are all owned by the same corporation subject to corporate hierarchy, which means, one point of view. I work for a corporation, what the big guy says goes, NO DISCUSSION. Media is controlled by a handful of corporations. Which means everything Americans see or hear are in the hands of a few CEOs. When has a corporate CEO ever worried about seeing all sides of an issue?

Thank you for your time and attention.